

Message Text

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NODIS

FOL RPT USUN NEW YORK 02613 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 23 JUN 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T USUN NEW YORK 02613

NODIS

EYES ONLY SECRETARY VANCE, DR. BRZEZINSKI, SECRETARY
SCHLESINGER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, ENRG, NI, US
SUBJECT: NIGERIA'S COMMISSIONER GARBA WORRIES ABOUT
US ENERGY POLICY

1. NIGERIA'S COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS BRIG.
JOSEPH GARBA DROPPED BY TO SEE ME LATE JUNE 22. AFTER
A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE SITUATION IN AFRICA HE ASKED
FOR A PRIVATE WORD WITH ME. HE SAID HE AND OBASANJO
HAVE CONCLUDED THAT NIGERIA NEEDS TO PROJECT A STRONGER,

SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 162051

MORE INDEPENDENT VOICE IN AFRICA. THEY BELIEVE
THAT ONLY BY CALLING THE SHOTS AS THEY SEE THEM WILL
NIGERIA BE ABLE TO EXERT A CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE ON
AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

2. HE SAID THEY ARE WORRIED, HOWEVER, THAT THE LIBYANS
AND OTHER ARABS MIGHT "PLAY GAMES" WITH THE FLOW OF

OIL, MANIPULATING PRODUCTION AND PRICES TO USE THEIR OIL AGAINST NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POSITION. GARBA SAID NIGERIA NEEDS SOME ASSURANCES THAT THE US WILL CONTINUE TO BE A DEPENDABLE CONSUMER OF NIGERIAN OIL AND WILL BE WILLING TO WORK WITH THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT IN CONTINUING SUPPORT OF NIGERIA'S AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT. HE ASKED A NUMBER OF GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LIKELY IMPACT ON US POLICY IN THIS REGARD OF THE ENERGY PACKAGE CURRENTLY UNDER CONSIDERATION IN WASHINGTON.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT I DID NOT THINK THERE WERE ANY PROBLEMS FORESEEABLE IN THE US POSITION AS A CUSTOMER OF NIGERIA'S OIL I SPECULATED THAT BOTH THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA ARE LIKELY TO BE ENCOURAGED BY NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE AND WOULD PROBABLY BE PRE-Disposed TO WORK WITH NIGERIA AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE RADICAL ARAB REPRISAL. I POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE US MARKET IS MANAGED BY A PRIVATE COMPANY, SO THE GOVERNMENT PROBABLY CANNOT OFFER ABSOLUTE GUARANTEES INTO THE FUTURE. NONETHELESS THE EXPANSION GOALS OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WOULD SEEM TO PROJECT CONTINUED GROWTH IN ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND AN ONGOING REQUIREMENT FOR NIGERIAN OIL. YOUNG UNQUOTE VANCE

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